

NIPOMO COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NIPOMO COMMUNITY
CENTER AND PARK DEVELOPMENT

Presented by

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Central Coast Community Health Centers, collaborative partner, public agency.

Economic Opportunity Commission, collaborative partner, non-profit organization.

First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County, collaborative partner, public agency.

Hotline of San Luis Obispo County, non-profit organization.

Lucia Mar Unified School District, collaborative partner, public agency.

Nipomo Community Services District, collaborative partner, public agency.

Nipomo Area Senior Center, collaborative partner, non-profit organization.

Nipomo Community Advisory Council, collaborative partner, government advisory.

Noreen Koch Memorial Fund, private foundation

Nipomo Youth Soccer, Nipomo Youth Softball, Nipomo Little League Association, and

Nipomo Youth Football, collaborative partners, non-profit organizations.

San Luis Obispo County Parks Division, collaborative partner, public agency.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nipomo Recreation Center (NRC) is currently located at 170 South Frontage Road in the unincorporated town of Nipomo, California. The NRC is a non-profit, 501 (c)3 organization, and has successfully assumed full responsibility for a majority of the communities' childcare needs, recreational needs, and facility rental needs. The NRC was created and constructed solely through community fundraising and community support. This overwhelming amount of support has helped establish programs that meet the community's needs. The NRC has accomplished what every community strives for and now in 2003 touches the lives of more than 6000 people within the community each year ranging from toddlers to seniors. Now, the NRC is in need of larger and improved facilities in order to adequately address the communities' needs for recreation, childcare, and community events.

The existing property was deeded to the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education in the 1940's. The NRC was constructed in 1989 although the NRC has been leasing the property from the County and their lease runs out in 2010. On December 12, 2002, the County Office of Education adopted a Resolution declaring its intention to sell the property located at 170 South Frontage Road, Nipomo, California. The NRC will receive approximately \$500,000 from the early lease termination to relocate and develop new facilities.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Nipomo Recreation Center is to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Greater Nipomo area by providing diverse and quality recreation programs, services, athletic opportunities, and facilities in direct response to the needs of Nipomo.

Vision Statement

To provide and maintain modern, fully functional and attractive recreation facilities that represent the Greater Nipomo Area while establishing positive recreation, leisure, education, and enrichment opportunities for every demographic within Nipomo.

Goals and Objectives

Relocate the NRC and build community facilities that will serve the residents of Nipomo and the entire South County. Our goal is to meet and exceed the needs of the community well into the future, by providing teens, seniors, and the entire family, with recreational resources and services. The objectives for the construction of the new NRC facility include a multi-purpose gymnasium, teen and senior centers, infant-toddler preschool, computer rooms, meeting and conference rooms, playing fields for soccer and softball, a skateboard park, and areas both indoor and outdoor for group and family functions.

Mission of San Luis Obispo County

To identify and provide an adequate supply of park and recreation opportunities to all San Luis Obispo County residents and visitors within identified financial resources, consistent with the public's ability and willingness to pay.

Objective of Study

The primary objective of this study is to identify the needs and the perception of unmet needs within the Greater Nipomo Area in order to identify program and facility needs for the Nipomo Recreation Center. This study will help determine the capacity in which the Nipomo Recreation Center will offer childcare facilities and recreational opportunities to accommodate the present and future needs of the Greater Nipomo Area.

INTRODUCTION

In the Winter 2002, The Nipomo Recreation Center issued a request to conduct a Needs Assessment. Needs Assessments can allow an organization to gain a more comprehensive knowledge of the community, its people, their needs, their opinions, and special problems. Critical decisions can be made based on community dissatisfaction, perceived lack of opportunity, the need to equalize or upgrade services, and to meet new demands. The purpose of this assessment was to identify the needs and the perception of unmet needs within the Greater Nipomo Area in order to identify program and facility needs for the Nipomo Recreation Center.

Survey methods were created to collect a comprehensive cross section of the community both geographically and demographically. The methods considered the current facilities and programs offered by the Nipomo Recreation Center as well as the facilities and programs provided by other types of recreation sponsors. The scope of this assessment shall include the perceived need and support for the Nipomo Recreation Center and its programs, while also identifying the perception of unmet needs. Once these perceived needs are known and the perceptions of unmet needs are determined, decisions can be made about fulfilling these needs both conceptually and financially.

The Nipomo Community Needs Assessment conducted by DPY Professional Consulting Services discusses the advantages of providing these services and programs, in short; recreation, childcare, and teen services have been proven to reduce crime rates, lower teen pregnancies, deter drug use, decrease suicide rates, and offers children, teens, and adults positive and beneficial activities to enhance their quality of life. The results provide ample opportunity for solicitation of funds to meet the programming needs of the Nipomo community. The Nipomo Community Needs Assessment project is a companion document and a preliminary study to the Feasibility Study for the construction of the Nipomo Community Center and Park Development.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

David P. Yosso, M.S.

The Principal Investigator and Author holds a Bachelor's of Science and a Master of Science in the area of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He possesses tremendous qualifications in community recreation, business administration, sports management, statistical analysis, research methodology and sampling techniques. Some of his previous publications include "Community Needs Assessment for The Boys and Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley, Inc." (June 2002), "External Funding Feasibility for The Boys and Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley, Inc." (September 2002), and Visitor Demographics and Spending Patterns: Morro Bay Harbor Festival 1999-2001 (March 2002). As a pioneer in research methodology, numerous student researchers at Cal Poly who intend to collect broad based sampling have adopted his methods and procedures for random sampling.

His consulting background has facilitated large-scale ventures for Boards of Directors, Foundation Groups, District Conferences, and Private Business Owners. Currently David is the Executive Director for the Nipomo Area Recreation Association, Inc. His perseverance and powerful leadership quality have established the Nipomo Recreation Center as the leading Community Recreation Organization in Nipomo. David's goals are to lead Nipomo Recreation into the future, while continuing to fulfill the Mission and Vision of the Nipomo Recreation Center.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The demographic profile of a community is the initial foundation of information to evaluate and project current and future demands. This profile is based on information available from the U.S. Census 1990, the recent U.S. Census 2000, Neighborhood Knowledge California 2003, SLOCOG 2001, and Claritas Incorporated 2003 Site Reports. This profile is a demographic representation of the people living in Nipomo, CA. It provides data that is useful in planning for future recreation facilities and programs. The following demographic summary indicates the information from the U.S. Census 2000. Immediately following the 2000 summary is a detailed section on past and future demographics for Nipomo, CA.

Demographics Summary-Census 2000

As the Census 2000 indicates, there were 12,626 people, 4,035 households, and 3,316 families residing in the town of Nipomo. The population density is 427.3/km² (1,106.1/mi²). There are 4,146 housing units at an average density of 140.3/km² (363.2/mi²). The racial makeup of Nipomo is 75.89% White, 0.60% African American, 1.32% Native American, 1.44% Asian, 0.06% Pacific Islander, 16.01% from other races, and 4.68% from two or more races. Additionally, 34.55% of the population are Hispanic or Latino of any race.

Furthermore, there are 4,035 households out of which 41.4% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 66.9% are married couples living together, 10.9% have a female householder with no husband present, and 17.8% are non-families. Only 13.5% of all households are made up of individuals and 6.6% have someone living alone who is

65 years of age or older. The average household size is 3.13 and the average family size is 3.42.

Nipomo's population has 30.7% under the age of 18, 7.5% from 18 to 24, 27.9% from 25 to 44, 21.7% from 45 to 64, and 12.1% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 36 years. For every 100 females there are 97.4 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there are 93.2 males.

The median income for a household in Nipomo is \$49,852, and the median income for a family is \$54,338. Males have a median income of \$41,288 versus \$25,509 for females. The per capita income for Nipomo is \$18,824. A depressing 7.3% of the population and 5.6% of families are below the poverty line. Out of the total people living in poverty, 9.5% are under the age of 18 and 6.1% are 65 or older.

Past, Present, and Future Community Demographic Profile

Population

A key component of estimating recreational and childcare needs is the current population and past growth percentages. According to the 1990 census, Nipomo's population was 9,059 people. The 2000 census recorded Nipomo's population at 12,626 people, a 39.38% growth in ten years. The estimated population for 2003 is 13,718; this would result in an 8.65% growth rate over the past three years. This 8.65% growth rate estimate may be conservative and a larger population may exist in Nipomo. According to Claritas, Inc., the projected growth in Nipomo by 2008 is estimated at 15,461, which is a 12.71% growth rate. This rapid population growth indicates that shortfalls in available recreation and childcare services are likely to reach their maximum capacity. In order to

maintain constructive community growth, adequate recreational and childcare facilities must be provided.

Appendix A represents the population distributions for all of the unincorporated portions of San Luis Obispo County. According to the 2000 Census, Nipomo and Rural Nipomo make up the largest percentage of all unincorporated portions of the County with 21,464 people or 22.86% of the County's unincorporated areas.

Age Distribution

Since different age ranges utilize and require different types of recreational services, a community age distribution is an essential component of estimating current and future recreation and childcare facility needs. Table 1 illustrates the age ranges considered, the population within each range, and the percent each age range represents from the 1990 Nipomo census.

In 1990, 32.7% of the population in Nipomo was in the child age bracket, ranging from under 5 to 19 years old. Another 40.1% was in the parenting age bracket, which represent ages 25-54. A combined 72.8% of the Nipomo population in 1990 represented family based age brackets, indicating a large amount of families in the area.

In 2000, 33.3% of the population in Nipomo was in the child age bracket, ranging from under 5 to 19 years old. Another 41.1% was in the parenting age bracket, representing ages 25-54. A combined 74.4% of the Nipomo population was in family based age brackets. From 1990 to 2000, the population of family based age brackets grew by 1.6%, indicating that family groups are remaining in the area and increasing in

numbers. Providing adequate recreation and childcare facilities to meet the needs of the family based population will be crucial to the Nipomo community.

Some of the notable observations regarding age characteristics in 1990 and age characteristics in 2000 are the under 19 year olds, the 35-54 year olds, and the 55 years and over demographic. Nipomo has historically represented a large majority of youthful populations, as shown by the 1990 and 2000 Census. Additionally, the 35-54 year old populations in Nipomo are dramatically increasing as shown by the 1990 and 2000 Census. Future recreation programs and facilities would need to satisfy these consistently increasing age characteristics. The 55 years and over population took a small decline as shown by the 1990 and 2000 Census. Research has proven that lack of recreation and leisure activities will have a negative effect on longevity. Since the 55 years and over populations also represent a significant percentage of Nipomo's age characteristics, future recreation programs and facilities would need to satisfy these age characteristics in order to facilitate longevity among the senior population.

The age distribution for 1990, 2000, and 2003 estimations clearly represent that families are the most common demographic in Nipomo. This is based on the high percent of children aged 0-19, and adults aged 25-55. In 2003 it is estimated that the Nipomo population will consist of 32.8% in the category where children are dependent of their parents. Another 39.9% of the population will consist of adults at an age where childrearing is most common. A combined 72.2% of the Nipomo population, according to 2003 estimations, lie within the family category. The 2003 estimations continue to place tremendous growth in family demographic brackets.

A survey conducted by Claritas Incorporated also posed two relevant questions regarding 2003 estimated family status in Nipomo. One question asked, “Household type-presence of own children.” The results from this question attributes 32% of the Nipomo population as “married-couple family, own children”, and 34% “married-couple family, no own children.” Results indicate 66% of the Nipomo population is represented by family settings. Another question asked, “Households by presence of people-households with 1 or more people age 18 and under”. The results indicated that 35% of people would be in the “married –couple family” category.

Table 1: Age Distribution for Nipomo, California in 1990

Age Ranges	Population within Range	Percent of Total Population
Under 5	628	8.8
5-9	638	9.0
10-14	510	7.2
15-19	545	7.7
20-24	360	5.1
25-34	1242	17.5
35-44	1048	14.7
45-54	564	7.9
55-59	400	5.6
60-64	238	3.3
65-74	574	8.1
75-84	305	4.3
85 and Older	57	.8
TOTALS	7109	100.0
Under 18	2153	30.3
62 and Older	1073	15.1

Note. Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, 1990.

Very low percentages of young adults are present, according to the 2003 estimations. Young adults ages 18-24 represent only 9% of the population in 2003. Elderly adults ages 65 and older are responsible for 15% of the 2003-estimated

population. One important consideration of Nipomo's family based populations is their dependency on childcare facilities. The current trend towards families requiring dual incomes poses a crucial need for affordable and accessible childcare. Additionally, children in the school age bracket are more likely to participate in after school recreation programs and utilize recreational facilities since parents must work longer hours. The family orientated age distribution of Nipomo demonstrates the tremendous need for increased recreation facilities.

Table 2: Age Distribution for Nipomo, California in 2000

Age Ranges	Population within Range	Percent of Population	Percent Change
Under 5	922	7.3	-1.5
5-9	1112	8.8	-0.2
10-14	1188	9.4	+2.2
15-19	987	7.8	+0.1
20-24	622	4.9	-0.2
25-34	1360	10.8	-6.7
35-44	2157	17.1	+2.4
45-54	1672	13.2	+5.3
55-59	569	4.5	-1.1
60-64	504	4.0	+0.7
65-74	894	7.1	-1.0
75-84	506	4.0	-0.3
85 and Older	133	1.1	+0.3
TOTALS	12626	100	+43.7
Under 18	3898	30.7	+0.4
62 and Older	1831	14.5	-0.6

Note. Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000. Median age was 35.6.

In addition, the age distribution estimations for 2003 and 2008 will require an even greater availability of recreation and childcare facilities. According to Claritas Incorporated, Nipomo will experience a 9.43% population growth from 2003-2008. The

2008 population projection for Nipomo is 15,461. Many people would argue that this projection is rather conservative. Whether conservative or accurate, growth is apparent in Nipomo and in order to sustain and enhance resident's quality of life, recreation and childcare facilities must be a top priority for the community.

Table 3: 2003 Estimated Populations by Age

Age Ranges	Population within Range	Percent of Total Population	Percent Change
Under 5	964	7.0	-0.3
5-9	1,051	7.6	-1.2
10-14	1,259	9.2	-0.2
15-19	1231	9.0	+1.2
20-24	779	5.7	+0.8
25-34	1323	9.6	-1.2
35-44	2080	15.2	-1.9
45-54	2061	15.1	+1.9
55-59	703	5.1	+0.6
60-64	569	4.2	+0.2
65-74	951	6.9	+0.2
75-84	582	4.2	+0.2
85 and Older	165	1.2	+0.1
TOTALS	13,718	100	+8.0
MEDIAN AGE (years) 36.2			
Under 18	4005	29.2	-1.5
62 and Older	2067	15.0	+0.5

Note. Data compiled from Claritas, Inc. Site Reports, 2003.

Housing Value

Housing values are an important issue for this study because the creation of parks and open space improves property values. As seen in Table 4, the housing values of the Nipomo community in 2000 are similar to that of the County of San Luis Obispo in 2000.

A majority of the homes range in price from \$150,000 to \$500,000. This price range is common for families who anticipate on remaining in their home to raise children. Often this price bracket encourages development proposals that increase real estate values. It is reasonable to assume that homeowners in the Nipomo community would encourage recreation development because it would increase their property value, increase employment opportunities, reduce crime, and enhance the quality of life in Nipomo.

Table 4: Housing Values

Housing Value	2003 Est. Nipomo	2000 Nipomo	2000 County of San Luis Obispo	2000 California
Less than \$100,000	9.6%	3%	3%	12%
\$100,000-\$149,000	19.6%	18%	13%	17%
\$150,000-\$199,999	21.9%	25%	24%	19%
\$200,000-\$299,999	27.6%	32%	33%	23%
\$300,000-\$499,999	19.2%	21%	22%	20%
\$500,000-\$749,999	1.1%	1%	4%	7%
More than-\$750,000	1%	0%	2%	5%

Note. Data compiled from Claritas, Inc. 2003 and California Neighborhood Knowledge, 2003.

Level of Education

The level of education within a community is an influential factor in anticipating recreation and childcare needs. Populations with higher levels of education are more inclined to participate in a wider variety of activities. Additionally, higher education levels indicate that many people maintain employment positions that require normal workday attendance. This allows for a specified number of hours that are available for

recreation. As Table 5 illustrates, the majority (52%) of the Nipomo community falls into the “high school graduation” and “some college” categories.

Table 5: Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Nipomo	County of San Luis Obispo	California
Less than 9 th grade	10%	5%	12%
9 th to 12 th grade	11%	10%	12%
High school	25%	22%	21%
Some college	27%	28%	23%
AA degree	9%	9%	8%
BA degree	12%	17%	18%
Graduate degree	4%	9%	10%

Note. Data compiled from Neighborhood Knowledge CA 2003.

Table 6: 2003 Estimated Educational Attainments, Nipomo

Educational Attainment	2003 Est. #	2003 Est. %
Less than 9 th grade	850	10.08
Some High School, no diploma	971	11.51
High School Graduate (or GED)	2,086	24.73
Some college, no degree	2,317	27.47
Associate degree	791	9.38
Bachelor’s degree	1,059	12.56
Master’s Degree	261	3.09
Professional School Degree	66	.78
Doctorate Degree	33	.39
Total	8,434	100.0%

Note. Data compiled form Claritas, Inc. 2003.

With this type of education level, it can be assumed that this portion of the population is employed a normal workweek, which creates income surpluses that may be utilized for recreation and childcare purposes. Table 6 shows the 2003 estimated educational attainment in Nipomo. The variations in percentages are slight which indicates the above findings and assumptions as accurate.

Income Distribution

Income distribution is important to this study in regards to monies available for recreation and childcare purposes. Higher incomes generally permit for increased recreational time, which indicates an increase in recreation and childcare expenditures. Neighborhood Knowledge California categorized the Nipomo population according to income levels. Nipomo's population contains a higher percent of people with higher income levels than the state of California. A large amount (24%) of the Nipomo population earns between \$50,000 and \$74,999, as shown in Table 7. All other incomes disperse on a bell curve around this mean income. Only 7% of Nipomo's population is estimated to fall below the state poverty line, compared to 14% for all of California.

Claritas, Incorporated has estimated the family households by household income for 2003. Table 8 illustrates these estimations and again, a large amount (25.41%) of the Nipomo population earns between \$50,000 and \$74,999. Claritas, Inc. has also estimated the average family household income for 2003 at \$73,425. Additionally, Claritas, Inc. has estimated the median family household income for 2003 at \$61,557. This information allows for reasonable assumptions to be made that money is available for recreation and childcare purposes.

Table 7. Household Income, Nipomo Versus California, 2000

Household Income	Nipomo, 2000 %	California, 2000 %
Less than \$15,000	10%	13%
\$15,000-\$24,999	9%	12%
\$25,000-\$34,999	12%	11%
\$35,000-\$49,999	19%	16%
\$50,000-\$74,999	24%	20%
\$75,000-\$99,999	13%	12%
\$100,000-\$149,000	9%	11%
\$150,000 plus	4%	8%

Note. Data compiled from NKCA, 2003.

Table 8. 2003 Estimated Family Households by Household Income

Household Income	Nipomo, 2003 Est. #	Nipomo, 2003 Est. %
Less than \$15,000	168	4.74%
\$15,000-\$24,999	218	6.15%
\$25,000-\$34,999	379	10.70%
\$35,000-\$49,999	590	16.66%
\$50,000-\$74,999	900	25.41%
\$75,000-\$99,999	574	16.21%
\$100,000-\$149,000	496	14.00%
\$150,000-\$249,999	167	4.71%
\$250,000-\$499,999	45	1.27%
\$500,000 plus	5	0.14%
Total	3,542	100.00%

Note. Data compiled from Claritas, Inc., 2003.

Ethnic Profile

Nipomo's ethnic make up has changed very slightly over the past ten years. The racial makeup of Nipomo consists of a majority of people reporting as White and

Hispanic. Table 9 shows the breakdown between race from 1990 to 2000. The majority of the increase in population was White and Hispanic with very little increase in the Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian and Eskimo categories.

Table 9: Race and Ethnic Breakdown of Nipomo Residents-1990 to 2000.

Categories by Race & Hispanic Origin (1990)	#	Categories By Race & Hispanic Origin (2000)	#
White	6,035	White	9,582
Black	33	Black	76
American Indian & Eskimo	108	American Indian & Eskimo	167
Asian & Pacific Islander	145	Asian & Pacific Islander	196
*Hispanic Origin	2,462	*Hispanic Origin	4,362

Note. Data compiled from U.S. Census, 2000. *Persons of Hispanic Origin are counted in all races.

Since Nipomo has been a town with a large middle class-family population and has continued to stay that way, available community recreation programs could play a large role in meeting the needs of the working class population by providing programs with little to no cost to each participant. With the large number of White and Hispanic population distributed throughout the community, the services provided by the Nipomo Recreation Center would greatly benefit from catering their programs and services to these specific demographics.

Households

Nipomo's family households, as previously discussed, have been consistently high. Per 1990 Census, Nipomo had 2,420 family households. Nipomo's growth patterns have continued to increase family household demographics. Table 10 demonstrates the family households for 1990, 2000, 2003 estimations, and 2008

estimations. These staggering family populations generate a high demand for a variety of recreation services and facilities.

Table 10: Total Family Households, Nipomo

City, Year	Total Family Households	% Increase	Total Population	% Increase
Nipomo, 1990	2,420	N/A	9,059	N/A
Nipomo, 2000	3,316	27.0%	12,626	28.3%
Nipomo, 2003 est.	3,542	6.4%	13,718	8.0%
Nipomo, 2008 est.	3,876	8.6%	15,461	11.3%

Note: Data derived from Claritas, Inc. 2003

Summary

The demographic profile of the Nipomo community is the preliminary source of information used to evaluate and project current and future demands. In this particular study it has been used to evaluate and project current and future recreation and childcare needs. This profile is an accurate demographic representation of the people living in Nipomo, CA. It provides data that is useful in planning for future recreation facilities and programs. This community demographic profile indicates that shortfalls in available recreation and childcare services are likely to reach their maximum capacity. In order to maintain constructive community growth, adequate recreation and childcare facilities must be provided. This section is to be used in conjunction with the Nipomo Recreation Center Needs Assessment, the Nipomo Recreation Center Feasibility Study, and as a separate document for demographic reference.

RESULTS

This section identifies the results of the Nipomo Recreation Center Needs Assessment. It is divided into five (5) main sections representing (5) different samples. Section I will describe the results of the Nipomo Collective Sample. Section II will describe the results of the Nipomo Teen Services Sample. Section III will describe the results of the San Luis Obispo County Latino Needs Survey 2003. Section IV will describe the results of the Nipomo Community Focus Group conducted by First 5 and San Luis Obispo County Children and Families Commission. Section V will describe the results of the Nipomo Senior Services Sample. Each section is then divided into subsections according to presentation of results. Subsections will discuss such topics as description of the sample and the sample demographics, enhancing the quality of life with recreation and childcare, membership costs, participation interests, and satisfaction and preferences for Nipomo Recreation Center programs and services.

Section I—Nipomo Collective Sample

The following section describes the results of the collective sample conducted by DPY Professional Consulting Services. Sub-sections include description of the sample, sample demographics, enhancing the quality of life in Nipomo, membership costs, importance factors for the new center, and programmatic participation.

Description of the Sample

The data collection procedures yielded a sample size of 456. Since Nipomo Recreation Center was interested in gathering information from both their current participants, as well as non-participants, a convenience sample was conducted. The

returned questionnaires, as shown in Table 11, represent participants in (a) Nipomo Recreation Basketball League, (b) Nipomo and Dana Elementary Before and After School Recreation, (c) Nipomo Recreation Kinder Care, and (d) Nipomo Recreation Lil Bits Preschool. The returned questionnaires, also shown in Table 11, represent Nipomo community members who are non-participants of the NRC.

Specific school locations for Before and After School Recreation sampling represented the NRC's targeted community and consisted of Dana Elementary School and Nipomo Elementary School. Sampling for Basketball, Kinder Care, and Lil Bits Preschool were conducted at the Nipomo Recreation Center. Nipomo community members who are non-participants of the NRC were sampled during various community meetings such as (a) Nipomo Community Advisory Council, (b) Nipomo Parks and Recreation Committee, (c) Nipomo Rotary, and (d) Nipomo Chamber of Commerce.

Table 11
Returned Surveys

Program	Returned Surveys
NRC Winter Basketball 2003	300
Before/After School Recreation	76
Lil-Bits Preschool	36
General Public	44
Total Returned Surveys	<u>456</u>

Sample Demographics

The following will describe the demographics of the sample. This will include gender and age. The frequency and percentages reflect the total number of subjects responding to Nipomo's Collective Sample (N=456).

The gender distribution, as shown in Table 12, found that 264 respondents were female, representing 57.9% of the sample. Conversely, 176 respondents were male, representing 38.5% of the sample. Only 3.5% of the respondents did not reply to the gender question.

The age distribution of the sample as shown in Table 13 represents the 456 respondents. The age distribution resulted in respondents ranging from 28-73 years of age. The majority of the respondents (46.3%) were between the ages 36-43, while the average age for the respondents was 40.4 years of age.

Table 12
Gender Distribution

Gender	#	%
Male	176	38.6
Female	264	57.9
No Response	16	3.5
Total	456	100.0

Table 13
Age Distribution

Age Range	#	%
28-35	123	27.0
36-43	211	46.3
44-51	79	17.3
52-59	23	5.0
60 and over	15	3.3
Total Responses	451	98.9
No response	5	1.1
Total Sample	456	100.0

Note. Average age of sample was 40.4 years of age.

Enhancing the Quality of Life in Nipomo

The following will discuss the results of the section within the questionnaire that focused on enhancing the respondents' quality of life. This includes all subjects representing Basketball, Before and After School Recreation, Lil Bits Preschool, and the General Public (N=456).

As Table 14 demonstrates, an overwhelming majority (91.2%) of the subjects responded to the initial question resulting in 416 total respondents. Of those 416 respondents, 100.0% would like to see a state of the art multi-purpose recreation/community center in Nipomo that would enhance the quality of life for all

residents of the Greater Nipomo Area. The remaining 41 subjects had no response representing 8.8% of the sample.

Table 14
Recreation/Community Center for Enhanced Quality of Life

Multi-Purpose Center	#	%
Yes	416	91.2
No	0	0.0
No response	41	8.8
Total Respondents	456	100.0

Respondents were asked to rate how important the following factors are in enhancing their quality of life. Those six factors were listed as; (a) leisure activities, (b) organized sports, (c) regular exercise, (d) special events, (e) continued education, and (f) low cost child care. Table 15 illustrates the importance level for all six factors. Results indicate that the vast majority of the respondents find all six factors important or very important in enhancing their quality of life. A large percent of the subjects (86.0%) found organized sports important or very important, while the remaining factors were also rated important or very important by over 70.0% of the respondents.

Table 15
Importance Factors for Enhancing Quality of Life

Factor	Important or Very Important	
	#	%
Leisure Activities	320	70.2
Organized Sports	392	86.0
Regular Exercise	364	79.8
Special Events	348	76.3
Continued Education	328	71.9
Low Cost Child Care	336	73.7
Total	2088	76.3(average)

Note. All six factors were rated important or very important by more than 70.0% of the sample.

Respondents were then asked whether the use of a recreation/community center would enhance their quality of life in the following areas; (a) leisure activities, (b) organized sports, (c) regular exercise, (d) special events, (e) continued education, and (f) low cost child care. Table 16 illustrates the results. The vast majority of the respondents find that the use of all six factors would enhance their quality of life. A large percent of the subjects (90.4%) found that by using a recreation/community center for Special Events would enhance their quality of life. Similarly, 88.6% of the respondents found that by using a recreation/community center for Organized Sports would enhance their quality of life. Additionally, the use of the four remaining factors would also enhance respondent's quality of life and are shown in Table 16.

Table 16
Enhancing Quality of Life and Areas of Need

Factor	Yes Responses	
	#	%
Leisure Activities	340	74.6
Organized Sports	404	88.6
Regular Exercise	372	81.6
Special Events	412	90.4
Continued Education	324	71.1
Low Cost Child Care	316	69.3
Total	2168	79.3(average)

Membership Costs

The following section will describe the subject's willingness to pay for a yearly membership to the recreation/community center. This will include the frequency and percentage of responses for (a) \$10.00-\$20.00, (b) \$21.00-\$30.00, and (c) more than \$30.00. The majority of the responses (43.0%) were willing to pay more than \$30.00 annually for a membership to a recreation/community center, as shown in Table 17.

Nipomo Recreation Center currently charges a \$15.00 annual registration fee. According to the respondents, they are willing to apply more than a 50% increase for a yearly membership to the recreation/community center.

Table 17
Annual Membership Cost

Fee Range	Yes Responses	
	#	%
\$10.00-\$20.00	96	21.0
\$21.00-\$30.00	148	32.5
More than \$30.00	196	43.0
No Response	16	3.5
Total	456	100.0

Importance Factors for New Center

The following describes the importance factors for a new state of the art multi-purpose recreation/community center. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the following factors; (a) Multi-purpose Gymnasium, (b) Multi-purpose Community Rooms, (c) Multi-purpose Conference Hall, (d) Multi-purpose Playing Fields, (e) Exterior/Interior Aesthetics, (f) Cost of Construction, (g) Program Pricing, (h) Diversity in Programming, (i) Central Location, and (j) Environmental Impact. Respondents were to rate these factors using the following scale; 1=not at all important, 2= not very important, 3=neutrally important, 4=important, and 5=very important.

Table 18 combines the subject's responses and demonstrates the important and very important ratings. Multi-purpose playing fields were the highest rated (91.2%), and the Multi-Purpose Gymnasium was the second highest rated (88.6%) factor for the recreation/community center. The only factor in which less than 60.0% of the

respondents rated important or very important was Environmental Impact (56.6%). All nine remaining factors were rated either important or very important by more than 60.0% of the respondents.

Table 18
Importance Factors for Recreation/Community Center

Factor	Important/Very Important Responses	
	#	%
Multi-Purpose Playing Fields	416	91.2
Multi-Purpose Gymnasium	404	88.6
Diversity in Programming	360	78.9
Central Location	352	77.2
Multi-Purpose Community Rooms	344	75.4
Program Pricing	344	75.4
Cost of Construction	304	66.7
Exterior/Interior Aesthetics	292	64.0
Multi-Purpose Conference Hall	288	63.2
Environmental Impact	260	57.0
Total	3364	73.8 (average)

Programmatic Participation

This section will include specific programmatic participation areas. The Nipomo Collective Sample measured community needs for future program planning by asking subjects whether or not they would like the NRC to offer the following athletic activities;

(a) Tennis, (b) Basketball, (c) Softball, (d) Soccer (e) Volleyball, (f) Baseball, (g) Roller Hockey, (h) Badminton, (i) Flag Football, (j) Billiards, (k) Table Tennis, (l) Water Sports, (m) Wrestling, (n) Track & Field, (o) Rock Climbing, (p) Weight Lifting, (q) Cricket, (r) Lacrosse, (s) Horseshoes, (t) Aerobics, (u) Equestrian, (v) Cycling, (w) Mountain Biking, (x) Skateboarding, (y) Racquetball, and (z) Golf.

Additionally, the Nipomo Collective Sample measured community needs for future program planning by asking subjects whether or not they would like the NRC to offer the following; (a) Computer Classes, (b) Performing Arts, (c) Life Skills, (d) Visual Arts, (e) Tutoring, (f) Photography, (g) Health Education, (h) Leadership Classes, (i) Education Enrichment Courses, (j) Employment Help, and (k) a Teen Center.

As shown in Table 19, a large portion of respondents, 372 (81.6%) would like the NRC to offer “Soccer”, while 368 (80.7%) of the respondents would like the NRC to offer “Basketball.” Similarly, 352 (77.2%) of the respondents would like the NRC to offer “Baseball”, while 348 (76.3%) respondents would like the NRC to offer “Softball.” Water Sports, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Equestrian, and Skateboarding were among the more popular programmatic interests with more than 70.0% response for each activity. Billiards, Cycling, Horseshoes, Rock Climbing, and Mountain Biking all favored popular among respondents with more than 60.0% response for each activity. Track & Field, Aerobics, Weight Lifting, and Racquetball were all popular by at least 50.0% of the respondents. The complete breakdown of “yes” responses is demonstrated in Table 19. Although some of these activities did not receive as high of a “yes” percentage as others, the results indicate that any one of these programs can be successful due to the frequency of responses.

Table 19
Desired Programmatic Participation

Activity	Yes #	Yes %	Activity	Yes #	Yes %
Soccer	372	81.6	Basketball	368	80.7
Baseball	352	77.2	Softball	348	76.3
Water Sports	340	74.6	Volleyball	340	74.6
Table Tennis	332	72.8	Tennis	324	71.0
Equestrian	324	71.0	Skateboarding	320	70.2
Billiards	316	69.3	Cycling	308	67.5
Horseshoes	308	67.5	Rock Climbing	304	66.7
Mountain Biking	288	63.2	Track & Field	264	57.9
Aerobics	258	56.6	Weight Lifting	252	55.3
Racquetball	234	51.3	Golf	154	33.7
Lacrosse	72	15.8	Flag Football	71	15.6
Roller Hockey	70	15.4	Wrestling	70	15.4
Cricket	66	14.5	Badminton	54	11.8

Note. Data based on frequency and percentage of responses.

Section II—Nipomo Teen Services Assessment

The following section describes the results of the Nipomo Teen Services Sample conducted by DPY Professional Consulting Services. The primary purpose of this study was to assess the services provided by the Nipomo Recreation Center and the secondary purpose was to develop a needs assessment specifically for teen services. Sub-sections include description of the sample, sample demographics, satisfaction of current services, future services, Teen Center and Skate Park, and qualitative results.

Description of the Sample

In June of 2003, students at Nipomo High School were selected to complete the Nipomo Recreation Center Teen Services Assessment. The total student enrollment at the time was 650 and consisted of only freshman and sophomores. The total amount of questionnaires completed was 224. The researcher collected the results from the teachers who administered the questionnaire at Nipomo High School on June 13th. The sample size was representative of the Nipomo High School population. This section will illustrate and break down the results of the Nipomo Teen Services responses.

Sample Demographics

The following will describe the demographics of the sample. This will include gender, age, and ethnicity. The frequency and percentages reflect the total number of subjects responding to the Nipomo Teen Services Assessment (N=224).

Of the 224 participants, 52% (115) were male, while 47% (106) were female. Only 3 teens did not respond to the gender question, representing 1.3% of the sample. The age of the respondents ranged from 13 to 17, with the majority of the respondents

falling between 14 and 16 years of age. There were no students that responded to the survey over the age of 17, which largely had to do with the enrollment of only freshman and sophomores. The average age of the respondents was 15 years. Table 20 shows a complete breakdown of the subjects by age.

Ethnic structure of the respondents was almost exclusively made up of White and Hispanic ethnicities. Nearly 60% of the respondents were White (59.8%) while 24% were Hispanic. The next closest ethnicity was Black, which consisted of 4.6% of the sample. The percentages taken from the results of the questionnaire were reasonably similar to the 2000 census percentages for ethnic make up of Nipomo residents. According to the 2000 census, 60% of the population labeled themselves as White only, while 34% labeled themselves as Hispanic or Latino of any race. Table 21 shows a closer look at the ethnic make-up of the respondents.

Table 20
Subjects by Age

Age	#	%
13	1	0.5
14	31	13.8
15	111	49.6
16	71	31.7
17	7	3.1
No Response	3	1.3
Total	224	100

Table 21
Subjects by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	#	%
White	134	59.8
Hispanic	54	24.1
Black	94.0	
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	7	3.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native	5	2.2
Asian	4	1.8
Other	7	3.1
No Response	4	1.8
Total	224	100

Satisfaction in Current Services

Respondents were asked to rate the current services provided at Nipomo Recreation Center as of June 2003. The scale was labeled as: 1 = not at all satisfied, 2 = mostly dissatisfied, 3 = partially satisfied, 4 = satisfied, and 5 = very satisfied. A list of five services was compiled for each respondent to rate. The five services included: exercise opportunities, leisure activity opportunities, scheduled teen activities, community events, and organized sports. None of the five services listed received an overall response rating equaling “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied.” Organized sports received the highest overall mean score at 3.5, while the lowest mean score (2.9) was given to scheduled teen activities. The mean score for exercise opportunities was 3.2, the mean score for leisure activity opportunities was 3.1, and the mean score for community events was 3.0. Table 22 demonstrates the complete results of the satisfaction in current

services. As displayed in the results, the leading response in four out of five categories was “partially satisfied.” The only service provided that received a response rate higher than “partially satisfied” was organized sports. Although all the services listed received a combined total of 424 “satisfied” and “very satisfied” responses, the overall averages were considerably lower than satisfactory because there was also a combined total of 660 “mostly dissatisfied”, “not at all satisfied,” and “partially satisfied” responses.

Table 22
Nipomo Recreation Center Satisfaction Rating

Service	Not at all Satisfied	Mostly Dissatisfied	Partially Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total
Exercise Opportunities	20	30	73	72	24	219
Leisure Opportunities	20	30	90	57	18	215
Scheduled Teen Activities	30	42	80	49	15	216
Community Events	26	34	83	54	20	217
Organized Sports	22	18	62	69	46	217
Total	118	154	388	301	123	1084

Importance Level of Future Services and Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate services and facilities that would be provided at a new community/recreation center on an importance scale of 1 to 5. The scale was described to the respondents as: 1 = not at all important, 2 = mostly unimportant, 3 =

somewhat important, 4 = important, and 5 = very important. The following facilities and services were listed: multi-purpose gym, multi-purpose community rooms, conference hall, multi-purpose athletic fields, teen center facility, skate park facility, before and after school activities, diversity in programming, and central location.

All nine categories were viewed as at least somewhat important, according to the mean scores. The service/facility that received the lowest mean score for importance was the conference hall with a mean score of 3.0. The multi-purpose gym and the multi-purpose athletic fields received the highest overall mean scores, with an importance mean score of 4.0. Following closely behind the two multi-purpose facilities, were the skate park, the teen center, and before and after school activities, which all received a mean score of 3.8. Table 23 will further expand on the results of the importance scores and the mean scores of all the services. The facilities/services that received more 4's and 5's were services that related specifically to the teens.

Table 23
Importance Level of Future Services/ Facilities

Service/ Facility	Not at All Important				Very Important	
	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
Multi-purpose Gym	4	15	44	66	95	4.0
Multi-purpose Community Rooms	14	34	87	56	31	3.3
Conference Hall	22	37	94	45	23	3.0
Multi-purpose Athletic Fields	4	17	48	70	83	4.0
Teen Center Facility	13	21	43	76	69	3.8
Skate Park Facility	20	15	42	55	90	3.8
Before & After School Activities	10	13	53	83	64	3.8
Diversity In Programming	16	29	67	64	45	3.4
Central Location	13	18	59	63	70	3.7
Total	116	199	540	578	570	3.6

Transportation

Respondents of the questionnaire were asked two separate questions about transportation. One question asked, “What form of transportation do you normally use to get to school?” The other question asked, “What form of transportation would you most likely use to get to the skate park?” Although many of the students listed several choices for each transportation question on the questionnaire, the instructions specifically stated for the students to check only one of the choices listed. This resulted in incalculable data.

Future Services

This section labeled 24 future services/facilities/games that the new Nipomo Recreation Center could implement into their programming when a new facility is constructed. Students were asked to identify the services/facilities/games that were needed in the new facility. Respondents were also given four blank spaces to add any other ideas that the researcher did not include. The qualitative data collected from the four blank spaces will be reported later in this chapter. The services/facilities/games that were offered on the questionnaire were: life skills courses, performing arts opportunities, art classes, leadership opportunities, outdoor education courses, photography courses, computer training courses, tutoring, employment help courses, open pc lab, open Apple Macintosh lab, graphic arts courses, music/instrument courses, arcade games, video game systems, air hockey, table tennis, foosball, billiards, various table games, a lounge area to hang out, a rock climbing structure, and a professional level skate park.

The Life Skills course received the least amount of interest from the respondents with only 38 responses, representing 17% of the sample. The service/facility/game that received the most amount of interest was the Lounge Area with a total of 157 (70%) responses. Other notable services/facilities/games of interest were: arcade games with 152 responses (68%), the rock climbing structure with 144 responses (64%) and air hockey with 142 responses (63%). Table 24 lists the results for all the categories. While the level of interest for each service/facility/game differed greatly, some categories received up to a 70% interest level while others received a 17% interest level. The overall mean score for the amount of responses was 99.6. This results in about a 45% interest level on average for all the services/facilities/games listed.

The most popular of the three categories that were listed on the questionnaire was games. Of the three categories, 58.29% of the respondents said they were interested in the seven games that were listed, which were: billiards, foosball, various table games, table tennis, air hockey, arcade games, and video game systems. Services received the least amount of interest with 34% interested in the 11 services listed on the questionnaire.

Teen Center and Skate Park

Since teen services will be a large part of a new facility for the Nipomo Recreation Center, it was important to collect data on specific aspects of the teen services that will be offered. The two largest and most expensive teen facilities that may be constructed at a new facility are a teen center and a professional level skate park. On the second page of the questionnaire there was one question that asked specifically how many times a week the participant would use the skate park and one question that asked how many times the participant would use the teen center.

According to the results of the questionnaire, shown in Table 25, 25.5% of the respondents said they would utilize a new teen center 3 times a week, only 9.8% said they wouldn't use it at all, and 64.7% of the respondents said they would use the teen center 3 or more times a week. In fact, 8.5% of the respondents said they would use the teen center every day of the week. The results of the questionnaire also showed that the majority of the respondents would utilize a new skate park as well.

Table 24
Responses for Services/Facilities/Games

Service/Facility/Game	# Positive Response	# Non Response	% Positive Response
Life skills courses	38	186	17
Performing arts	82	141	37
Art classes	90	133	40
Leadership opportunities	50	173	22
Outdoor education courses	62	161	28
Photography	112	111	50
Computer training	64	159	29
Tutoring	92	131	41
Employment help	94	129	42
Open PC lab	85	138	38
Open Macintosh lab	52	171	23
Graphic arts class	58	165	26
Film making class	100	123	45
Music instrument class	88	135	39
Arcade games	152	71	68
Video game systems	131	91	59
Air hockey	142	81	63
Table tennis	130	93	58
Foosball	120	103	54
Billiards	119	104	53
Various table games	119	104	53
Lounge area	157	66	70
Rock climbing structure	144	79	64
Skate park	109	115	49
Total	2390	2963	44.5

As shown in Table 26, 50.9% of the respondents said they would use a new skate park 3 or more times per week. A total of 13.4% said they would use a new skate park every day of the week, but 30.4% said they wouldn't use a new skate park at all. Although 30.4% said they wouldn't use a new skate park, more than two thirds of the respondents (69.7%) said they would.

Table 25
Proposed Teen Center Usage

Teen Center Usage	#	%
0 Times Per Week	22	9.8
1 Time Per Week	20	8.9
2 Times Per Week	23	10.3
3 Times Per Week	57	25.5
4 Times Per Week	32	14.3
5 Times Per Week	29	13.0
6 Times Per Week	8	3.6
7 Times Per Week	19	8.5
No Response	14	6.3
Total	224	100

Table 26
Proposed Skate Park Usage

Skate Park Usage	#	%
0 Times Per Week	68	30.4
1 Time Per Week	12	5.4
2 Times Per Week	24	10.7
3 Times Per Week	28	12.5
4 Times Per Week	23	10.2
5 Times Per Week	23	10.2
6 Times Per Week	10	4.5
7 Times Per Week	30	13.4
No Response	6	2.7
Total	224	100

To further break down the usage of the proposed teen center and skate park, Table 27 shows the number of respondents that would only use the teen center and not the skate park. Only 21.9% of the respondents would use the teen center and not use the skate park, while only 6.3% of all respondents would use the teen center three times a week without utilizing the skate park. Additionally, only 2 respondents would use the teen center seven times a week without utilizing the skate park at all.

Table 28, shows the frequency and percentage of the people who would use the skate park but not the teen center. Only five respondents out of 224 (2.2%) would use the skate park but not the teen center. These numbers are very promising for the teen center and skate park development proposed by the Nipomo Recreation Center.

Table 27
Correlation Between Teen Center Usage Without Skate Park Usage

Teen Center Usage	# of respondents who would use the teen center but not the skate park	%
1 Time Per Week	10	4.5
2 Times Per Week	13	5.8
3 Times Per Week	14	6.3
4 Times Per Week	5	2.2
5 Times Per Week	3	1.3
6 Times Per Week	2	0.9
7 Times Per Week	2	0.9
Total	49	21.9

In order to find out the true value of the current services, the researcher correlated the level of importance for the teen center and the skate park with the satisfaction level of the current scheduled teen activities. Table 29 shows the correlation of scheduled teen activities and the level of importance for a teen center. The majority of the respondents (67.9%) claimed that they were less than satisfied with the current scheduled teen activities. According to the respondents, 21.4% said that although a teen center was “very important,” they were either “not at all satisfied,” “mostly dissatisfied,” or “partially satisfied” with the current scheduled teen activities (as of June 2003). According to Table 25, 28.6% of all respondents said they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with current scheduled teen activities, although, only 3.6% of all respondents said that they were both “very satisfied” with scheduled teen activities and that the teen center was “very important.”

Table 28
Correlation Between Skate Park Usage Without Teen Center Usage

Skate Park Usage	# of respondents who would use the skate park but not the teen center	%
1 Time Per Week	2	0.9
2 Times Per Week	0	0.0
3 Times Per Week	0	0.0
4 Times Per Week	0	0.0
5 Times Per Week	0	0.0
6 Times Per Week	2	0.9
7 Times Per Week	1	0.5
Total	5	2.2

Table 30 shows the correlation between scheduled teen activities and the level of importance for a skate park. While 8.0% of the respondents claimed that although a skate park was “very important”, they were “not at all satisfied” with scheduled teen activities that Nipomo Recreation Center currently offers. According to the respondents, 38.8% labeled the skate park as “very important,” but only 10.7% labeled the skate park as “very important” and claimed to be either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the current scheduled teen activities.

Table 29
Correlation Between Teen Center Importance Level and the Satisfaction of Scheduled Teen Activities

Correlated Responses	#	%
Not at All Satisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Very Important (Teen Center Facility)	10	4.46
Not at All Satisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Important (Teen Center Facility)	6	2.68
Mostly Dissatisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Very Important (Teen Center Facility)	10	4.46
Mostly Dissatisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Important (Teen Center Facility)	13	5.80
Total	39	17.41

Table 30
Correlation Between Skate Park Importance Level and the Satisfaction of Scheduled Teen Activities

Correlated Responses	#	%
Not at All Satisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Very Important (Skate Park Facility)	18	8.04
Not at All Satisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Important (Skate Park Facility)	3	1.34
Mostly Dissatisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Very Important (Skate Park Facility)	18	8.04
Mostly Dissatisfied (Scheduled Teen Activities) & Important (Skate Park Facility)	13	5.80
Total	52	23.21

Qualitative Results

The following section will analyze the qualitative section on the questionnaire. Students were asked to add specific services/facilities/games to the compiled list. Open spaces were provided for the respondents to write down ideas for services/facilities/games that were not listed. While most of the responses were original, there were seven responses received that had multiple listings. Of the seven that were listed more than once, three responses were listed five times each. These three included music classes, a food bar/café, and a movie theater. Table 31 shows the results for all the responses given.

Table 31
Qualitative Responses for Future Service/Games/Facilities

Service/Game/Facility	#	%
Cooking Class	1	0.004
Fencing	2	0.009
Boxing	1	0.004
Tennis Lessons	1	0.004
Music Classes	5	2.23
Food Bar/Café	5	2.23
Movie Theater	5	2.23
Basketball Tournaments	2	0.009
Bicycle Park	1	0.004
Aquatics Program	1	0.004
Bowling	2	0.009
Dance Classes	4	1.76
Total	30	13.39

The results presented in this chapter indicate a need for additional teen services at Nipomo Recreation Center. A detailed summary and discussion of the findings will follow in the Summary.

Section III- San Luis Obispo County Latino Needs Survey 2003

The following section will describe the results of the SLO County Latino Needs Survey conducted by Lucia Mar Adult Education El Civics and Hotline of San Luis Obispo County. Sub-sections will include the description of the Latino Outreach Survey techniques and Latino needs by priority.

Description of the Latino Outreach Survey

In 2003, Linda Villanueva and Mary Jane Pruett, Latino Outreach Coordinators for Hotline of SLO conducted the second Latino Outreach Needs Assessment and Survey for San Luis Obispo County. This led to a series of 9 meetings called Platicas throughout the county: Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Miguel, Shandon, Oceano, Nipomo, Cambria, Estero Bay, and San Luis Obispo. The meetings were divided into 2-4 groups with bilingual facilitators leading the discussions. The participants were able to discuss their needs and opinions freely. At the end of the discussion groups, all the participants were brought together to discuss and document their needs by priority. Additionally, all participants completed a needs survey, which was composed of questions addressing: Health, Safety, Education, Homelessness, Tobacco Control, Housing, Childcare, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services, and Community Issues. DPY Professional Consulting Services and Nipomo Recreation Center have received permission to report on their findings.

Latino Needs by Priority

The San Luis Obispo County Latino Needs Survey 2003 brought attention to the overall needs and listed them by priority. “Needs Being Met” and “Needs Not Met” were categorized according to frequency and priority. Table 32 demonstrates these needs by priority for San Luis Obispo County, while Table 33 demonstrates these needs by priority for Nipomo. In both cases childcare is listed as the third priority when based on unmet needs. Education was also listed as a top priority need for both SLO County and Nipomo. The sub-heading needs by priority are listed as they appear in the Needs Survey presented by Lucia Mar Adult Education El Civics and Hotline of San Luis Obispo County. More specific categories can be found in the Hotline of San Luis Obispo County Latino Outreach Survey, Volume 2, Issue 2, August, 2003.

Table 32
SLO County Latino Outreach Needs by Priority

Need by Priority	Sub-Heading Needs by Priority
1. Housing	-Rent-High Costs, Need Rent Control -Poor or No Maintenance -Low Income Housing or Self Help Housing -Discrimination by Landlord (Size of family, nationality, language) -Information on Housing
2. Health Care/Insurance	-Need bilingual doctors, staff, and emergency care -Transportation -Insurance
3. Childcare	-Bilingual Providers -Affordable Childcare for infants under 5 -Affordable after school care for elementary -After school teen programs -Evening childcare for working parents -Activities and sports (Information in Spanish)

4. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ESL Classes with childcare -Bilingual teachers and counselors -Bilingual services -Tutors -Cultural Awareness -Higher education (New laws, financing and grants)
5. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Affordable (Costly for out of town services) -Bilingual staff, drivers -Availability
6. Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Knowledge of new laws -I.D.'s for check cashing -Drivers license and car insurance -Work permits and forms
7. Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Workers/Employment Rights -Employment Opportunities
8. Law Enforcement—Community Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bilingual Services -Emergency/Law Enforcement -Legal Assistance -Community Issues

*****Community Issues Responses;**

- 1. Need Parks and activities for youth and children in rural areas.**
- 2. Need streetlights and sports fields in rural areas.**

Note. Data compiled from SLO County Latino Needs Survey 2003.

Table 33
Latino Outreach Needs by Priority in Nipomo

Need by Priority	Sub-Heading Needs by Priority
1. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High prices for buying homes -Rents go up when need maintenance -Need low-income housing
2. Language Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Learn English-need ESL classes -Discrimination when don't speak English -Need more bilingual law enforcement
3. Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of bilingual licensed providers -More subsidized childcare -Childcare programs for mothers who work in fields/longer hours

4. Health

- Mothers who work two jobs are not eligible
- Need parenting classes in Spanish with childcare

- Need more options for health insurance
- Health needs not met
- Lack of pediatricians (need to go to SLO)
- Not always treated with respect at health facilities
- Do not know of existing services
- Lack of bilingual staff
- Need 24-hour health services
- Need dentists with bilingual staff
- Need low income clinic

5. Education

- Schools are crowded (Judkins Middle School is too far for parents and kids)
- Need Citizenship and ESL classes with childcare
- Recognition of Mexican education
- Bilingual classes for children
- Learn more about American culture

6. Social Services

- Consumer rights education
- Vocational training-subsidized
- Employment opportunities
- More knowledge of existing services
- Knowledge of reporting fraud cases

7. Community Issues

- Bad roads
- Heavy morning traffic
- More access to entry roads
- Streetlights
- Need more community involvement
- Zoning for homes vs. agriculture
- Need community bulletin board with notices for community activities

8. Transportation

- Need bilingual staff
- Services expensive
- Need education in Spanish for how to use transit service
- Need low-income services for out of Nipomo (especially for students that have to go to school out of Nipomo because schools are full)

Note. Data compiled from SLO County Latino Needs Survey 2003.

Section IV—Nipomo Community Focus Group

The following section describes the results of the Nipomo Community Meeting held on September 9, 2003. First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County conducted this focus group to gather community input on the needs of children age prenatal to 5th birthday and their families.

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

The Nipomo focus group responses are divided into six (6) tables, which represent the questions that were asked by the facilitators. Table 34 describes the strengths of children living in Nipomo, while Table 35 describes the needs of children living in Nipomo. Table 36 describes the unmet needs of parents in Nipomo, while Table 37 describes the strengths of the preschool/childcare system. Table 38 lists the services that exist in Nipomo and the services that need to be added or enhanced. Table 39 describes the responses to the question of the need for enhanced services countywide or geographically.

Table 34
Strengths of Children in Nipomo

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

- ⊙ Living in a fairly safe community.
 - ⊙ Most of the parents really value education.
 - ⊙ The schools in the area are great.
 - ⊙ Children who attend preschool do appear well prepared when they enter public school.
-

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Table 35
Needs of Children Living in Nipomo

Nipomo Focus Group Responses
⊙ Affordable childcare
⊙ More early education programs
⊙ Free immunization clinics
⊙ Free car seats, bike helmets, and safety workshops
⊙ Information about community services in English and Spanish
⊙ Parent Education regarding children prenatal to 5 th birthday
⊙ Parks and Playgrounds for children
⊙ Public Transportation
⊙ Speech Therapy and other Special Needs in Spanish
⊙ Counseling for children
⊙ Parent Participation Programs
⊙ Services for undocumented families
⊙ Affordable housing
⊙ Cultural Awareness Training for families to prevent re-occurrence of teen pregnancy, abuse, academic failure, etc.
⊙ Cultural Awareness Training for providers to reduce clients' fear of utilizing services or customizing service delivery approaches.

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Table 36
Unmet Needs of Parents Living in Nipomo

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

- ⊙ Mental Health counseling for issues as divorce, abuse, etc.
- ⊙ Translation of medical services, prescriptions in Spanish. Children with bi-lingual capabilities are often relied upon to transfer information to parent.
- ⊙ Network for Spanish information on Social Services. Current resources limited to radio and word of mouth.
- ⊙ Nutrition support and education
- ⊙ Parent Health counseling, outreach and education
- ⊙ Awareness of existing programs
- ⊙ Overcoming fear of getting involved with agencies
- ⊙ Community meetings in a safe (non-threatening) place
- ⊙ Centralized site for bi-lingual information
- ⊙ Community Participation training
- ⊙ Transportation
- ⊙ Increased outreach by Sheriff and Health Community in Spanish
- ⊙ Women's Shelter
- ⊙ Affordable child care
- ⊙ Housing and the needs of the homeless
- ⊙ Social Awareness Education. For example; How local laws differ from prior places of residence. What are expectations of schools, community, etc.

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Table 37
Strengths and Weaknesses of the Preschool/Childcare System in Nipomo

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

Strengths:

- ⊙ Overall these services are providing good preparation for Elementary School.
- ⊙ The Bridge Program (Kindergarten transition program) is effective.
- ⊙ A good Day Care referral system
- ⊙ Head Start is strong and provides programs such as S.A.F.E and Second Step
- ⊙ Day Care Provider Association provides good information
- ⊙ Day Care providers are highly motivated, highly vested.

Weaknesses:

- ⊙ Need full-day Head Start
- ⊙ Inadequate amount of available Day Care and Child Care facilities
- ⊙ A need for more parent involvement
- ⊙ Low wages for preschool teachers

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Table 38
Existing Services and Needed Services

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

Existing Services:

- ⊙ Community Health Center Provides a local M.D. and R.N.
- ⊙ Healthy Start
- ⊙ Adult Education Learning Center

- ⊙ Even Start
- ⊙ Head Start
- ⊙ State Preschool
- ⊙ Nipomo Recreation Center-Lil Bits Preschool
- ⊙ Day Spring
- ⊙ Life Steps
- ⊙ Revolving Closet (Clothing Bank)
- ⊙ CASA
- ⊙ MOPS Program (Mothers of Preschoolers)
- ⊙ Day Care Providers Association
- ⊙ Department of Social Services
- ⊙ Salvation Army
- ⊙ Food Bank
- ⊙ Catholic Charities
- ⊙ Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- ⊙ Library Story Time
- ⊙ Public Health Nurse Home Visits
- ⊙ Senior Citizens Center provides food
- ⊙ Bridges Program (Transition from preschool to kindergarten program)
- ⊙ Local Churches

Needed or Enhanced Services:

- ⊙ Mobile Vaccine Clinics
- ⊙ Mobile Dental Clinics

- ⊙ Recruitment and development of a qualified pool of volunteers
- ⊙ Pre-natal Education
- ⊙ WIC
- ⊙ Play Therapy
- ⊙ Women's Shelter
- ⊙ Library open on weekends
- ⊙ More food resources
- ⊙ Lending Toy Library
- ⊙ Employment Development Department
- ⊙ Health Insurance
- ⊙ Extended hours of service. Clients are usually not available M-F, 8-5.
- ⊙ Legal Assistance
- ⊙ S.N.I.P. in Spanish (Speech Therapy)
- ⊙ Urgent Care

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Table 39
Need for Enhanced Services Countywide or Geographically

Nipomo Focus Group Responses

- ⊙ Nipomo has been the site of about 40% of growth in the county with no significant increase in services.
- ⊙ In general, the more rural, the farther away from San Luis Obispo, the less services are available.
- ⊙ Nipomo is the largest unincorporated area in the county and among the farthest from SLO.

- ⊙ The socio-economics of Nipomo are skewed. There is a higher class and a lower class and very little middle class to speak of.
- ⊙ Nipomo differs from rural areas of the county in that the population tends not to be migrant. People who come to live in Nipomo tend to stay vs. leaving with the completion of a crop harvest.
- ⊙ The need for services in Nipomo exceed vs. the need for services countywide in large part because most people needing those services do not have reliable transportation.

Note. Responses were derived from the First 5 Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on September 9, 2003 in no particular order.

Section V—Nipomo Senior Services Evaluation

The following section describes the results of the Nipomo Recreation/Community Senior Services Evaluation from September 2003. This survey was conducted online and in written questionnaire form. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the current and future needs of Nipomo seniors and determine the level of interest for Nipomo Recreation Center to provide senior services.

Description of the Sample

The Nipomo Recreation/Community Center Senior Services Evaluation resulted in 62 online respondents and 19 written respondents resulting in a sample size of 81 respondents. Written surveys were conducted at the Nipomo Area Senior Center while online surveys were used to gather a cross-section of Nipomo's senior population.

Sample Demographics

The following section will describe the demographics of the sample (N=81). The breakdown in gender, as shown in Table 40, resulted in 38 Males and 43 Females. As shown in Table 41, 50.6% of the respondents were 70 years and elder. Additionally, 30.9% of the respondents were between the ages 60-69. Only 4.9% of the respondents were between the ages 55-59, while 13.6% were under 55 years of age.

Table 40
Gender Distribution

Respondents	#	%
Male	38	46.9
Female	43	53.1
Total	81	100.0

Table 41
Age Distribution

Range	#	%
Under 55	11	13.6
55-59	4	4.9
60-64	15	18.5
65-69	10	12.4
70-74	20	24.7
75 +	21	25.9
Total	81	100.0

Nipomo Area Senior Center Membership

The following describes the number of Nipomo Area Senior Center members, their satisfaction level with the services provided, and comments from those respondents who are non-members. The number of respondents who identified as Nipomo Area Senior Center members was 18, representing 22.2% of the sample, while 63 respondents were non-NASC members, representing 77.7% of the sample. Table 42 describes the Nipomo Area Senior Center satisfaction level based on the 18 respondents who reported to be NASC members.

Table 42
Nipomo Area Senior Center Satisfaction

Satisfaction Level	#	%
Not at all Satisfied	0	0.0
Mostly Unsatisfied	0	0.0
Somewhat Satisfied	6	33.3
Satisfied	10	55.5
Very Satisfied	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

Table 43 categorizes the comments by non-NASC members describing why they are not members. Responses to the question resulted in 26 comments, representing 41.2% of the non-NASC members. Similar responses were grouped and the subsequent categories include the following; (a) Unaware of NASC, (b) Too Busy, (c) Not Interested, and (d) Don't Qualify. More than half of the respondents (14) commented on their busy schedules, while only 4 respondents (15.4%) were not members because they were not interested.

Table 43
Nipomo Area Senior Center Non-Members

Reason for Non-Member	#	%
Unaware of NASC	6	23.0
Too Busy	14	53.9
Not Interested	4	15.4
Don't Qualify	2	7.7
Total	26	100.0

Note. 45 respondents, representing 55.6% of the sample, indicated that they are involved with other senior organizations or senior class offerings.

Nipomo Area Senior Center Programmatic Review

The following section describes the results of the Nipomo Area Senior Center programmatic review. Table 44 demonstrates the amount of awareness specific programs receive at the NASC. All programs listed are currently offered at the Nipomo Area Senior Center. The more popular of the 16 programs are the Potluck Meeting, the Dine Out Social Hour, the E.O.C. Free Blood Pressure Check, the Hot Lunch Program, and the P.A.C.E. Free Exercise Program. Additionally, this section will describe the respondents' recommendations for the annual registration fee, which currently is \$15.00 a

year. Table 45 demonstrates how much respondents are willing to pay for annual registration fees for senior services. Table 46 demonstrates the willingness of the Nipomo Senior population to pay extra for specialty classes.

Table 44
Nipomo Area Senior Center Programmatic Awareness

Program	Awareness #	Awareness %
Potluck Meeting	15	18.5
Dine Out Social Hour	14	17.3
E.O.C. Free Blood Pressure	12	14.8
Hot Lunch Program	12	14.8
P.A.C.E Free Exercise Program	11	13.6
Brown Bag Program	10	12.3
E.O.C Free Blood Sugar Check	10	12.3
Harvest Bag Program	10	12.3
Lunch Time Bingo	9	11.1
Free Legal Aid Services	7	8.6
Short Trip Excursions	6	7.4
Billiards	5	6.2
Open Library Free Books	5	6.2
Board Meeting Dates	3	3.7
Bridge with Friends	3	3.7
Games and Cards	1	1.2
Total	132/1296	10.2

Table 45
Registration Fees

Annual Registration Fee	#	%
\$15.00-\$25.00	54	66.7
\$26.00-\$36.00	5	6.2
\$37.00-\$47.00	4	4.9
\$48.00-\$58.00	11	13.6
\$59.00-\$69.00	1	1.2
\$70.00+	6	7.4
Total		100.0

Note. Current annual registration fee for Nipomo Area Senior Center is \$15.00.

Table 46
Extra Fees for Specialty Classes

Response	#	%
Yes	54	66.7
No	27	33.3
Total	81	100.0

Programmatic Interest for New Center

The following section describes the respondents' interests for Nipomo Recreation Center to provide Senior services within the new multi-purpose community center. This section includes specific programmatic interest levels, computer availability interest levels, and weekly attendance levels as reported by the respondents.

Table 47 lists the frequencies and percentages in which respondents found programmatic interest. The more popular programs included Short Trip Excursions, Computer Training, Travel Tours, Active Older Adult Fitness Classes, and Senior Sports.

Table 48 projects the Nipomo Area Recreation Associations Community Center attendance based on responses from the Senior Center Survey. Of the 81 respondents surveyed, 59 would attend the Nipomo Recreation Senior Center 1-3 times per week, representing 72.8% of the sample. Only 18 respondents would not attend the Nipomo Recreation Center, representing 22.2% of the sample.

Table 49 shows the amount of respondents that have a computer at home, while Table 50 demonstrates the need for a computer room offering services for seniors within the new Nipomo Recreation Community Center. A large majority of the respondents (87.7%) have computers at home, while 72.8% of the respondents would like to use computers at the Nipomo Recreation Senior Center for various uses.

Table 47
Nipomo Community Center Programmatic Interest

Program	#	%
Short Trip Excursions	40	49.4
Computer Training	37	45.7
Travel Tours	35	43.2
Active Older Adults Fitness	27	33.3
Senior Sports	27	33.3
Art Classes	24	29.6
55 Alive Driving Lessons	23	28.4
Water Aerobics	21	25.9
Support Groups	18	22.2
Craft Classes	17	21.0
Dance Classes	16	19.8
Yoga or T'ai Chi	15	18.5
Photography Classes	14	17.3
Lounge Area	12	14.8
College Classes	12	14.8
Health Insurance Counseling	12	14.8
Bingo Nights	11	13.6
Foreign Language Classes	9	11.1
Total Responses	370	25.4 Avg.

Table 48
Nipomo Recreation Senior Center Attendance

Attendance Per Week	#	%
0	18	22.2
1-3	59	72.8
4-7	4	4.9
Total	81	100.0

Table 49
Computers at Home

Response	#	%
Yes	71	87.7
No	10	12.3
Total	81	100.0

Table 50
Computer Use Needs in New Center

Computer Use	#	%
Email/Internet Access	28	34.6
Instructional Classes	26	32.1
Playing Games	5	6.2
No Response for Need	22	27.1
Total	81	100.0

Transportation

The following section describes the various forms of transportation used by respondents. The questionnaire asked respondents to identify the form of transportation they normally use. Table 51 describes the results of the transportation question.

Table 51
Form of Transportation

Type	#	%
Car	70	86.4
Walk	3	3.7
Public Transportation	0	0.0
Other	8	9.9
Total	81	100.0

Qualitative Results

The following section describes the comments, concerns, and suggestions of the respondents. Table 52 describes responses verbatim to the open-ended comment section of the questionnaire. The response rate for comments, concerns, and suggestions was 27.0% as 22 respondents provided the researcher with feedback.

Table 52
Comments, Concerns, Suggestions

"My future is so uncertain I'm not sure if I will be able to participate in programs of any kind. I'll hope you succeed with your new facility and that there will be something I can participate in. Thanks"

"My support of a senior center would be based on what it would replace that I plan on going somewhere else for now. Like fitness. If the center had a good fitness program and facilities I would use it rather than a local fitness center. Participation in other programs would depend on how good they are and the age of participants they attract. We are 62 and 63 and quite active so if a program attracts participants over 70 who are limited in what they can do, we might not be as interested if it is activity oriented"

"Transportation from BL to San Luis Obispo etc. will become an increasing need as we age. Any plans? Taxi, dial a ride?"

"I filled in some items, though I would not use them with my present activity schedule. In the future things will probably be different."

"Senior programs at a new recreation center might be a good idea, but at the moment my husband and I have not interest in such programs."

"Why are we wasting tax dollars on this when we need to complete the infrastructure in this town? Or is this another attempt to extort funds from developers again and further drive up the new home prices, thereby forcing more local people out of the market while we import more old people. It is a sad day when we have more pharmacies (4) than schools (2) in this town. Hell, we even have less fast food places (2) than pharmacies. We should be building cemeteries, not Rec centers based on the current demographics of the population."

"Wow! Imagine! A new state of the art Community Center for Nipomo. How wonderful!"

"Internet access to genealogy programs."

"We live at Black Lake and do not participate in any activities at the Senior Center in Nipomo. Was there only once, for a medical screening of some sort, I believe it was. We participate in many activities here at Black Lake and at this time, are not interested in other community activities."

"We are busy with family (7 kids and 17 grandchildren) and their activities, we are not sure we would use the facility; plus we travel a great deal. We volunteer in several areas. We believe in the program and will support your effort."

"I would love to see watercolor classes, a book study group, craft classes, water aerobics and exercise classes."

"I know very little about the services offered in Nipomo. I would like to learn more."

"I don't feel, and hope I never feel, ready for Bingo. The suggested classes do appeal to me. Computer literacy is great for seniors who are sometimes too embarrassed to ask for help."

"Additional tennis courts would be nice for Nipomo."

"I filled it out, some didn't pertain to me. Not sure what help I was."

"How about bicycle excursions?"

"Since I live in Blacklake I would never use a new senior center we have all the centers now here within walking distance and we are very organized."

"How about combining the services in one location or center"

"Would like to see the current senior center become more lively and offer more activities – would be willing to help – not "Do it All" share with others."

"I would certainly use and pay for color printing on the computer."

"I am a retired florist and will assist in a course to teach."

"Some way has to be found to get more people involved in activities."

Total Responses **22 (27.0%)**

SUMMARY

The principal purpose of this study was to identify the needs and the perception of unmet needs within the Greater Nipomo Area in order to identify program and facility needs for the Nipomo Recreation Center. This study will assist in determining the capacity in which the Nipomo Recreation Center will offer childcare facilities and recreational opportunities to accommodate the present and future needs of the Greater Nipomo Area.

This study has provided a profusion of comprehensive knowledge of the Nipomo community, its people, their needs, their opinions, and special problems. The Nipomo Community Needs Assessment project is a companion document and a preliminary study to the Feasibility Study for the construction of the Nipomo Community Center and Park Development.

This study has presented a Community Demographic Profile, which offered an accurate representation of the people living in Nipomo, CA. It has also provided data that is particularly useful in planning for future recreation facilities and programs. Some of the highlights include the projected growth for Nipomo by 2008, which is estimated at 15,461, a 12.71% growth rate. This rapid population growth indicates that shortfalls in available recreation and childcare services are likely to reach their maximum capacity. In order to maintain constructive community growth, adequate recreational and childcare facilities must be provided. Additionally, Nipomo and Rural Nipomo make up the largest percentage of all unincorporated portions of San Luis Obispo County with 21,464 people or 22.86% of the County's unincorporated areas.

Nipomo's family oriented age distribution further exhibits the enormous need for affordable and accessible childcare and recreation facilities. In addition, the age distribution estimations for 2003 and 2008 will require an even greater availability of recreation facilities for youth, adults, and seniors. Growth is apparent in Nipomo and in order to sustain and enhance resident's quality of life, recreation and childcare facilities must be a top priority for the community. The Mission of the Nipomo Recreation Center is to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Greater Nipomo Area by providing diverse and quality recreation programs, services, athletic opportunities, and facilities in direct response to the needs of the Nipomo community.

This study includes five (5) separate evaluations creating thorough indications of community needs and perceptions of unmet needs. The Collective Sample yielded a sample size of 456 Nipomo residents ranging from 28-73 years of age. A commendable 416 respondents would like to see a state of the art multi-purpose recreation/community center in Nipomo that would enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Greater Nipomo Area. Organized Sports were among the most important factors for enhancing quality of life, while 88.6% of the respondents established that the use of Nipomo Recreation/Community Center for Organized Sports would enhance their quality of life in Nipomo. The majority of the respondents (43%) were willing to pay more than \$30.00 annually for a membership to Nipomo Recreation/Community center. Multi-purpose playing fields and a Multi-purpose Gymnasium were established as the most important factors for the new facility. More than 75.0% of the respondents have indicated that the NRC needs to include Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball at the new facility, while more than 70.0% of the respondents have indicated that the NRC needs to include Water

Sports, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Equestrian, and Skateboarding. Other highly desired programmatic needs include Billiards, Cycling, Horseshoes, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking, Track and Field, and Aerobics.

The Teen Services Assessment yielded a sample size of 224 Nipomo High School students. Nipomo Teens are “mostly dissatisfied” or “not at all satisfied” with the Leisure Opportunities, Scheduled Teen Activities, Exercise Opportunities, and Community Events offered in Nipomo. The majority of Nipomo’s Teens find a Multi-purpose Gymnasium, Multi-purpose Athletic Fields, Teen Center Facility, Skate Park Facility and Before and After School Activities “important” or “very important” for Nipomo Recreation Center’s future services and facilities. A Teen Center should include Lounge Areas and Various Games, provide classes such as Photography and Film Making, as well as offer Tutoring and Employment Help. Almost 65.0% of teens would use a Teen Center 3 or more times a week, while 69.7% of the Teens would use the Skate Park. Only 21.9% of teens would use the Teen Center and not use the Skate Park, while only 2.2% would use the Skate Park but not the Teen Center.

The SLO County Latino Needs Survey yielded responses from nine focus groups. Childcare was one of the top Latino needs by priority while categories included; bilingual childcare providers, affordable childcare for infants under 5, affordable after school care for elementary students, after school teen programs, evening childcare for working parents, and activities and sports information in Spanish. Latino Community Issues according to need included; parks and activities for youth and children in rural areas, and streetlights and sports fields in rural areas.

The Nipomo Community Focus Group gathered community input on the needs of children age prenatal to 5th birthday and their families. Topics included strengths of children in Nipomo, Needs of Children in Nipomo, Unmet Needs of Parents Living in Nipomo, Strengths and Weaknesses of the Preschool/Childcare System in Nipomo, Existing Services and Needed Services, and Need for Enhanced Services Countywide or Geographically. Highlights included responses such as “Children who attend preschool do appear well prepared when they enter public school”, “Affordable childcare is needed in Nipomo”, “Parks and Playgrounds are needed in Nipomo”, and “Nipomo has an inadequate amount of available Day Care and Child Care facilities”.

The Nipomo Senior Services Evaluation yielded a sample size of 81 respondents ranging from just under 55 years to over 75 years of age. Only 18 respondents were current Nipomo Area Senior Center Members, while the majority of the respondents were non-members because they were too busy or unaware of the NASC. The vast majority of the respondents are willing to pay \$15.00-\$25.00 for an annual registration fee and willing to pay extra for specialty classes. The majority of respondents would like to see the Nipomo Recreation Center provide senior services within their new facility. The more popular programs include short trip excursions, computer training, travel tours, active older adult fitness classes, and senior sports. More than 70.0% of the respondents would attend the Nipomo Recreation Senior Center 1-3 times per week. A large majority (72.8%) of the respondents would use computers at the NRC for Instructional Classes and Internet Access.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on the findings within the Nipomo Community Needs Assessment for the Construction of the Nipomo Community Center and Park Development. The Greater Nipomo Area's needs and perceptions of unmet needs have been thoroughly identified using appropriate and reliable research methodology. This study has determined the capacity in which the Nipomo Recreation Center will offer childcare facilities and recreational opportunities to accommodate the present and future needs of the Greater Nipomo Area. Based on these criteria, the researcher recommends that the following proposed development is exceedingly needed in Nipomo:

- Multi-purpose Gymnasium
- Soccer Fields (2-3)
- Softball Fields (2-3)
- Multi-Purpose Playing Fields (2-3)
- Infant and Toddler Childcare Facilities
- Playgrounds
- Teen Center
- Skate Park
- Senior Center
- Multi-purpose Classrooms
- Computer Room
- Community Room
- Conference Hall
- Commercial Kitchen Facilities

Appendix A: Populations of Unincorporated Portions of SLO County		
Planning Area/Community	2000 Census*	% of County Population
Adelaida	3,114	3.32%
El Pomar/Estrella	7,294	7.77%
Estero		
Morro Bay	Not applicable	
Cayucos	2,926	3.12%
Los Osos	14,277	15.20%
Estero (Rural)	1,211	1.29%
Total	18,414	19.61%
Huasna-Lopez	821	0.87%
Las Pilitas	1,349	1.44%
Las Padres	319	0.34%
Nacimiento	2,852	3.04%
North Coast		
Cambria	6,230	6.63%
North Coast (Rural)	867	0.92%
Total	7,097	7.56%
Salinas River		
Atascadero	Not applicable	
Paso Robles	Not applicable	
San Miguel	1,420	1.51%
Santa Margarita	1,258	1.34%
Templeton	4,607	4.91%
Salinas River (Rural)	6,025	6.42%
Total	13,310	14.17%
San Luis Bay		
Arroyo Grande	Not applicable	
Avila Beach	300	0.32%
Grover Beach	Not applicable	
Oceano	7,244	7.71%
Pismo Beach	Not applicable	
San Luis Bay (Rural)	4,326	4.61%
Total	11,870	12.64%
San Luis Obispo		
San Luis Obsipo City	Not applicable	
SLO (Rural)	3,520	3.75%
Total	3,520	3.75%
Shandon-Carrizo	2,476	2.64%
South County		
Nipomo	12,612	13.43%
Nipomo (Rural)	8,852	9.43%
Total	21,464	22.86%
County non-City Population	93,900	100.00%

*Derived from Attachment B, September 5, 2001 SLOCOG Agenda Package

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